Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00895 01 OF 02 261209Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 DODE-00

-----261222Z 126084 /11

O R 261130Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO CDRTADOC FT MONROE VA/ATTNG-PRD-SA-T IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5829
USINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ABU DHABI 0895

TRADOC FOR MR. BOB CAVE

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: MASS, TC

SUBJ: ORIENTATION/TRAINING TOUR - ABU DHABI

REF: (A) MSG TRADOC ATTNG-PRD-SA-T, 252000Z MAR 77
(B) MSG TRADOC ATTNG-PDR-SA-T, 162020Z MAR 77 (NOTAL)
(C) MSG TRADOC ATTNG-PRD-SA-T, 282248Z FEB 77

- 1. ON RECEIPT REF B, EMBASSY DCM ARRANGED APPOINTMENT MARCH 24 WITH MAJ. GEN KHALDI, CHIEF OF STAFF UAE ARMED FORCES, TO REVIEW PROPOSED PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH REF C NOT THEN AVAILABLE, POINTS CONTAINED THEREIN WERE DISCUSSED WITH GENERAL BY PHONE MARCH 26. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS/INQUIRIES BASED ON THESE CONTACTS.
- 2. TIMING OF PROGRAM -- CONFLICT HAS APPARENTLY ARISEN INVOLVING COL. SHAIKH SULTAN, WHOM IS INDICATED PREVIIOUSLY WE HOPE WILL LEAD TOUR TEAM. SHAIKH SULTAN IS APPARENTLY PREPARED TO HEAD GRUUP, BUT HE HAS COMMITMENT IN EUROPE IN LATE PARIL. GEN KHALDI HAS ASKED IF ENTIRE ITINE-RARY MIGHT BE MOVED BACK ONE WEEK TO START ON MAY 3? EMBASSY CAN WELL APPRECIATE DIFFICULTIES OF MAKING UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 00895 01 OF 02 261209Z

CHAGE SUCH AS THIS WITH ALL STOPS INVOLVED, BUT HOPES THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. ALTERNATIVELY, DCM DISCUSSED WITH KHALDI POSSIBILITY OF SIMPLY MOVING WEST POINT/ NEW YORK PORTION OF ITINERARY TO END OF PROGRAM IN EARLY JUNE. PRESUMABLY THIS WOULD PERMIT SUFFICIENT DELAY AND WE ASSUME IT LIKELY TO BE EASIER. FIRST ALTERNATIVE HOWEVER IS DEFINITELY PREFERRED. EMBASSY

WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON THIS POINT IF POSSIBLE BY OPENING BUSINESS, TURESDAY, MARACH 29, SINCE AMBASSADORDOR HOPES TO SEE SHAIKH SULTAN THAT DAY TO PURSUE MATTER

3. RE REMAINDER OF PROGRAM, GEN. KHALDI THOUGHT THAT IT WAS MADE TO ORDER, ALBEIT SOMEWHAT STRENUOUS. IN THAT CONNECTION, HE URGED THAT WEEKEND STOJMS--E.G. IN ATLANTA AND DALLAS/FORT WORTH BE AS LIGHT ON OFFICIAL PROGRAMMING AS POSSIBLE. NEITHER US ARMY FORCES COMMAND HEADOUARTERS NOR CORPS OF ENGINEERS STRUCK GENERAL AS BEING THAT RELEVANT TO F SIC MISSION OF THIS GROUP (IN LATTER, CONNECTION HE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE IN PARTICULAR OF FORT BEINNING VISIT) AND HE IS CLEARLY CONCERNED RE THEIR STAYING POWER. EMBASSY BELIEVES HSI CONCERNS ARE VALID. WHILE WE EXPECT GROUP TO TAKE TOUR SERIOUSLY AND BE INTERESTED IN WHAT IS SHOWN, PACE OF LIFE HERE IS NOT UP TO US STANDARDS AND RE-LAXATION--PARTICULARLY DURING FAST PACE OF FIRST THREE WEEKS OF TOUR--WILL BE IMPORTANT.

4. RE QUESTION OF PERSONAL EXPENSES RAISED REF C, KHALDI EXPRESSED CONCERN--AGAIN WE BELIEVE LEGITIMATE--RE AMOUNT OF CASH THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED. ON SALE OF \$150 PER DAY THIS WILL WORK OUT TO SOME \$5000 PER MAN OR \$50,000 FOR GROUP. IF TOUR GOES HIGHER CLASS (SEE MORE BELOW) PROBLEM OBVIIOUSLY GET WORSE--AND THEY DO NOT HAVE CREDIT CARDS. KHALDI ASKED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 ABU DH 00895 01 OF 02 261209Z

WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE WHEREBY CIVILIAN HOTELS WOULD BILL UAEG--PERHAPS ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON--FOR ROOMS AND ANY EXPENSES INCURRED AT HOTEL. OBVIOUSLY GROUP WOULD NEED CASH TO HANDLE OTHER EXPENSES BUT PROBLEM WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED. KHALDI STATED THAT LKTTER COULD BE PRODUCED--PRESUMABLY FROM UAE EMBASSY--FOR EACH HOTEL ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR GROUP, AUTHORIZING UNLIMITED CHARGES, AND PROMISING TO PAY BILL UPON SUBMISSION. DOES SUCH ARRANGEMENT SOUND PRACTICAL? ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO SEND "BAG MAN" WITH GROUP, BUT THIS MEANS ADDITIONALLPERSON AND IS NOT DESIRED SOLUTION.

5. RE HOTELS, NATURE OF ACCOMMODATION DESIRED DEPENDS IN LARGE PART ON WHETHER SHAIKH SULTAN LEADS PARTY. UAE CITIZENS ARE USED TO TRAVELING FIRST CLASS, SO HOTELS SHOULD FIT THAT BILL IN ANY EVENT. FYI. WE ASSUME \$150 PER DAY WOULD COVER THAT TYPE OF HOTEL.

END FYI. IF SHAIKH SULTAN DOES COME, AS ANTICIPATED, ACCOMMODATIONS SHOULD BE "FIVE STAR", AS KHALDI PUT IT, WITH REST OF PARTY STAYING IN SAME HOTEL. EMBASSY REALIZES PRECEDING COULD BE BIT MORE PRECISE. ONCE WE KNOW SULTAN'S PLANS WE WILL TRY TO PIN THIS DOWN-E.G. DOES HE WANTSUITE? DOES HE PREFER PARTICULAR HOTEL BY NAME?

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00895 02 OF 02 261213Z ACTION NEA-10

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5830
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7-SARA-T//

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 ABU DHABI 0895

TRADOC FOR MR. BOB CAVE

6. RE AIR TRAVEL, KHALDI ASKED IF THIS WOULD BE VIA MILITARY AIRCRAFT? WE GATHER FROM REF A THAT ANSWER IS NO--THAT TRAVEL WILL BE COMMERCIAL. IN THAT CONNECTION, HOWEVER, WE RECOMMEND THAT WHERE SUCH SERVICE OFFERED, AIR TRAVEL BE FIRST CLASS. UAEG WILL, OF COUSE, PAY--INCLUDING FIRST CLASS FARE FOR ESCORT-BUT THAT IS WAY THEY USED TO TRAVELING. THIS OF COURSE ALL THE MORE SO IF SHAIKH SULTAN LEADS DELEGATION.

7. EMBASSY APPRECIATES EFFORTS OF ALL CONCERNED TO DATE AND APOLOGIZES FOR CHANGES WE SUGGESTING AND REMAINING POINTS OF UNCERTAINTY. AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO POINT OUT TO SHAIKH SULTAN EXTENSIVE PLANNING INVOLVED IN THIS TRIP AND NEED TO PIN DOWN AND STICK TO DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS ASAP.

IF THERE ARE INQUIREIS OF EMBASSY, ACTION OFFICER IS DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION SAM PEALE, PHONE OFFICE 61534, HOME 62453. NOTE: ABU DHABI TIME IS GMT PLUS FOUR.

DICKMAN

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